

# Annual Business Plan 2023-2024

Northern and Yorke Landscape Board



# Introduction



On behalf of the Northern and Yorke Landscape Board, I am pleased to present the 2023-2024 Business Plan, my first as Chair.

This plan outlines the programs and projects that the Board will deliver in its pursuit of “*a resilient and productive landscape that sustains a thriving community, environment*

*and economy*”. There are five priority areas; Communities, Biodiversity, Water Management, Sustainable Agriculture and Pest Plant and Animal Control.

The programs and projects complement the priorities and objectives of the Northern and Yorke Landscape Plan 2021-2026 and State Landscape Strategy.

The Board will deliver a combination of on-ground works, policy and strategy development, extension activities and landholder support, ensuring that all members of the community have the opportunity to benefit from its work. The funding for these initiatives is outlined within the plan, including identifying funding sources and distributed in support of the priorities.

The Board will continue the delivery of key projects including Marna Banggara and Djuldawawa Badja across Yorke Peninsula, the Regenerating Mid North Catchments throughout the Mid North and Soils education and extension across the region. Many of the projects

outlined in the plan address multiple priority areas including pest animal and plant control, enhanced or protected biodiversity, soil health, agricultural performance and drought resilience.

The Board takes this opportunity to recognise and thank our partners, stakeholders, and community for their invaluable contributions. For the programs and projects to be successful, the relationships that the Board and staff maintain with our partners, stakeholders, First Nations people, community groups and not for profit organisations is critical. The Board is one organisation in a strong network who work together and with a collective vision for a sustainable future. These partnerships will ensure the activities outlined in this plan will be successful.

I encourage you to review this plan and identify those programs and projects which interest you. Board members and all staff at the Northern and Yorke Landscape Board look forward to your support and participation in the activities planned for 2023-2024 and beyond. Together we can make a sustainable future for our community.



**Geoffrey White**

Chair, Northern and Yorke Landscape Board

## Minister’s approval

I, Susan Close, Minister for Climate, Environment and Water, after taking into account and in accordance with the requirements of section 51 of the *Landscape South Australia Act 2019*, hereby adopt the 2023-2024 Business Plan for the Northern and Yorke Landscape Board.



**Hon. Susan Close**

Minister for Climate, Environment and Water





## **Acknowledgement of Country**

The Narungga, Nukunu, Kurna, Ngadjuri and Peramangk people are the traditional custodians of the Northern and Yorke region. The Board acknowledges and respects elders past and present, and we respect and value the relationship that Aboriginal people have to Country.



## Our mission

Our mission is to inspire, educate and work with our community to sustainably manage the Northern and Yorke landscape region. From the hills and plains to the sea, we are committed to the protection and productivity of our natural resources to ensure resilient ecosystems, vibrant communities and a healthy economy into the future.

The Northern and Yorke region is an incredibly diverse and beautiful place to live, work and play but its landscapes are under constant threat. The Board is committed to working in partnership with the people who live and prosper in the region to ensure resilience and sustainability

into the future. This Business Plan shows where the board will invest funding and effort in the 2023-2024 financial year. All projects are made possible by landholder levy contributions and backing from project partners.

## The Board

The Board is a statutory body established under the *Landscape South Australia Act 2019* tasked with helping manage the region's landscapes and natural resources.

The Board's obligations include maintaining water allocation plans, issuing Water Affecting Activities permits, supporting landholders to sustainably manage land, declared pest plants and animals and impact-causing native species, and engaging the community in landscape management. The board raises landscape and water levies to deliver its obligations and programs that contribute to the priorities of the regional Landscape Plan. The levies also help the board attract additional funding and support to increase what is achieved in our region.

The Northern and Yorke Landscape Board consists of a Presiding Member (Chair) and eight community members appointed as Board Members. All board members were appointed by the Minister on the basis of the skills and

experience that the member can provide to the Board. The Board meets regularly, holding meetings at towns throughout the region on a monthly basis. Visitors are welcome to attend Board meetings which are advertised on the Board website.

In 2023-2024 the Board has the following committees to support its operations:

- Governance and Finance Committee
- Aboriginal Engagement Committee

Select Board Members also attend the following Water Planning committees:

- Water Planning Steering Committee
- Water Allocation Planning Advisory Groups for the Barossa and Baroota Prescribed Water Resource Areas



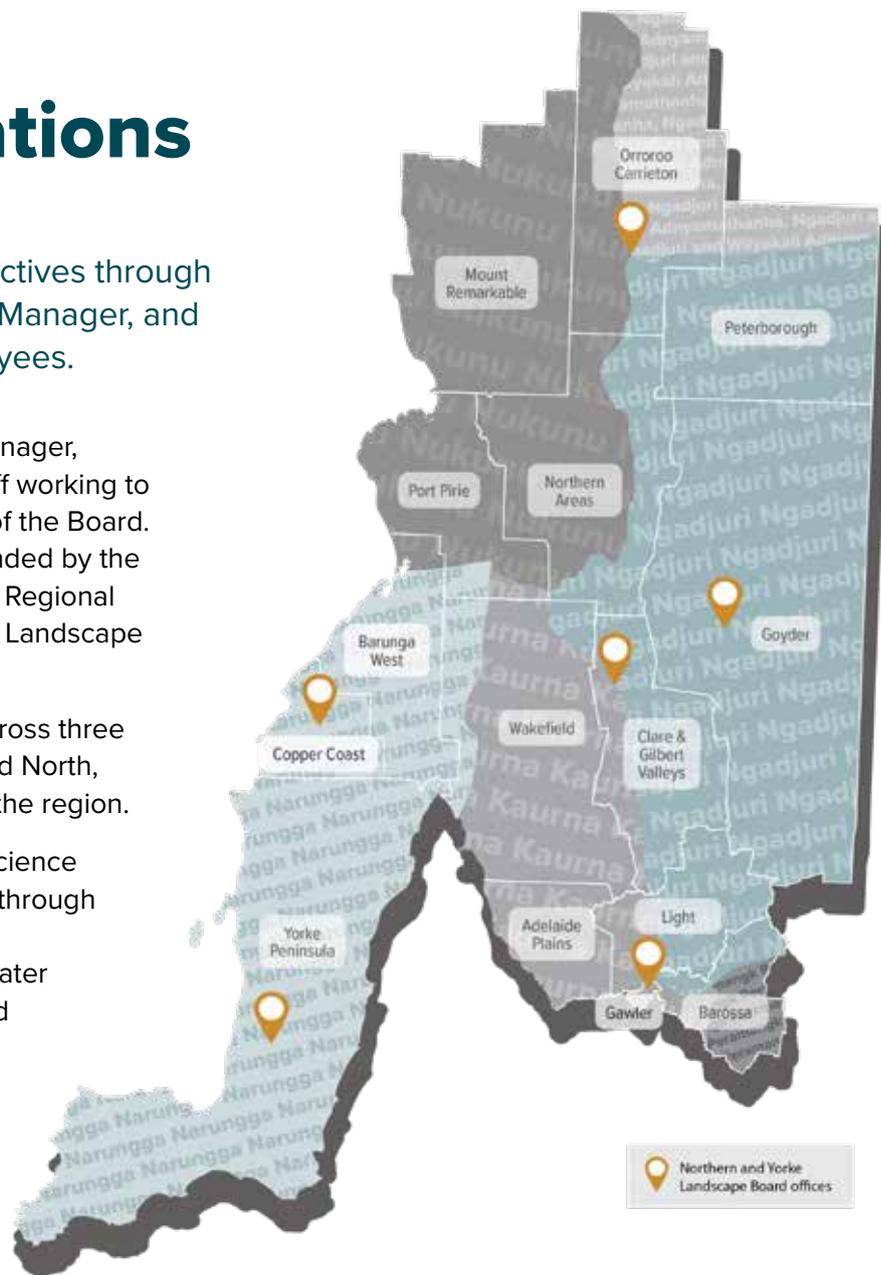
## Board operations

The Board delivers on its objectives through the employment of a General Manager, and a team of public sector employees.

The Board, through the General Manager, employs 40 full-time equivalent staff working to deliver the programs and projects of the Board. A number of these positions are funded by the Australian Government through the Regional Landcare Program or through State Landscape Priority Funding.

The Landscape Board staff work across three districts, Rangelands, Yorke, and Mid North, with six offices located throughout the region.

A number of corporate and water science services are provided to the Board through Service Level Agreements with the Department for Environment and Water and the Department of Treasury and Finance, Shared Services SA.



## Stay informed



Keep up-to-date with our latest news:

**Website:** [landscape.sa.gov.au/ny](https://landscape.sa.gov.au/ny)

**Facebook:** NYLandscapeSA

**E-News:** Yakka News

Subscribe to the Yakka e-news: [landscape.sa.gov.au/ny/subscribe](https://landscape.sa.gov.au/ny/subscribe)

# Leadership model

The Board provides a critical role in advocacy, facilitation and collaboration in support of the objectives of the Landscape Act and State Landscape Plan. The Board considers the following elements in determining support for programs and projects for the benefit of the region.



# Our priorities

## Communities



### Active. Informed. Knowledgeable.

**FOCUS AREAS:**

- Make decisions based on best available science, cultural knowledge and local experience
- Actively engaged community at the centre of landscape management
- Foster partnerships that increase communication, expertise and collaboration in landscape management

## Biodiversity



### Protected. Improved. Restored.

**FOCUS AREAS:**

- Support the protection and restoration of coastal habitats
- Coordinate programs to improve climate change resilience and adaptive capacity
- Improve ecosystems through restoration of habitat

## Water management



### Efficient. Sustainable. Monitored.

**FOCUS AREAS:**

- Sustainably manage the region's prescribed water resources
- Protect and rehabilitate watercourses and wetlands
- Promote the sustainable use of water for environmental, cultural, social and industry outcomes

## Sustainable agriculture



### Adaptive. Resilient. Healthy.

**FOCUS AREAS:**

- Building land managers' capacity in adaptive agriculture and best practice land management
- Support innovation and adoption of practices for resilience and adaptation
- Protect and improve the condition of soil, groundcover and vegetation

## Pest plant and animal control



### Targeted. Coordinated. Collaborative.

**FOCUS AREAS:**

- Deliver programs that control priority weeds and feral animals to reduce their effects on agriculture and biodiversity
- Develop land manager networks and facilitate collaboration for pest control and management

# Communities



Active. Informed. Knowledgeable.

The Northern and Yorke landscape region incorporates a variety of communities, from residents in remote/regional towns to major centres, farming, viticulture and horticulture communities, and a wide variety of community organisations that have a focus on sustainability. Engaging with members of these communities is critical to success and is central to all programs and projects managed by the Northern and Yorke Landscape Board. Facilitation of community education, awareness and extension is a key deliverable for the Board, across all the priority areas.

FOCUS AREA:

**Make decisions based on best available science, cultural knowledge, and local experience**

PROGRAMS

Healthy Country Planning

Community and stakeholder engagement forums

Aboriginal Engagement Committee

FOCUS AREA:

**Foster partnerships that increase communication, expertise and collaboration in landscape management**

PROGRAMS

Partnerships with Regional Alliance Group (RDA and Legatus), local councils, NGOs and community groups

FOCUS AREA:

**Actively engaged in community at the centre of landscape management**

PROGRAMS

Nature Education Program

Grassroots and Bite-sized Grants

Citizen Science Programs

Communications and reporting program

PROJECTS

Regional Alliance Group

Volunteer Event Support Program



# Biodiversity

Protected. Improved. Restored.



The Northern and Yorke region is ecologically diverse with more than 1400km of coastline, areas of nationally threatened woodlands and grasslands and a number of threatened flora and fauna species. Protecting these threatened areas and species, along with increasing biodiversity in agricultural land, vineyards and areas of degraded vegetation is important to improve the overall health of our region and ensure its sustainability into the future.

FOCUS AREA:

## Support the protection and restoration of coastal habitats

PROGRAMS

Healthy Country  
Planning coastal  
priorities

Coastal Management  
Action Plan  
deliverables

FOCUS AREA:

## Improve ecosystems through the restoration of habitat

PROGRAMS

Marna Banggara

Assistance with  
DEW Fire program

FOCUS AREA:

## Coordinate programs to improve climate change resilience and adaptive capacity

PROGRAMS

Regional Alliance  
Climate  
Sector Agreement

Grassroots Grants  
Program

Regional  
Drought Hub  
support and  
collaboration

PROJECTS

Djulda-wawa Badja:  
Resilient Coastal  
Ecosystem Project

Regenerating  
Mid North Rivers  
Catchment Project

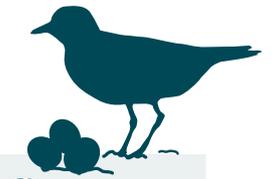
Woodland Birds in the  
Mount Lofty Ranges\*

Blue Carbon Project

Heritage Agreement  
Program Support\*

Stronger Country\*

\* Proposed projects that are subject to funding.



# Water Management



**Efficient. Sustainable. Monitored.**

Water is critical to the ongoing health of watercourses, wetlands and the ecosystems of the watercourse systems. A healthy watercourse provides both environmental and economic outcomes for the region and those who live, work and prosper here. The Board manages water affecting activities through a permit and compliance system, seeking to ensure that natural flows are maintained, and where necessary, repair or reinstatement of the waterflow is enforced. The Board also holds legislative responsibility for management of prescribed water resources areas in the region, including undertaking resource monitoring and planning through the development of Water Allocation Plans.

FOCUS AREA:

## Sustainably manage prescribed water resources

PROGRAMS

Monitor ecological changes in PWRAs

FOCUS AREA:

## Protect and rehabilitate watercourses and wetlands

PROGRAMS

Water affecting activity permits and compliance

FOCUS AREA:

## Promote the sustainable use of water for environmental, cultural, social and industry outcomes

PROGRAMS

Promotion of cultural water flows in prescribed water areas

Water security planning and drought resilience activities

PROJECTS

Barossa Water Allocation Plan

Baroota Water Allocation Plan

Clare Water Allocation Plan

Regenerating Mid North Rivers Catchment Project

Environmental and Cultural Flows Project



# Sustainable Agriculture



**Adaptive. Resilient. Healthy.**

The Northern and Yorke region is primarily an agricultural region, with approximately 80% of the region being utilised for agriculture purposes, and the remaining 20% used for viticulture, market gardening, mining, small farms and residential purposes. With these levels of agriculture, horticulture and viticulture, soil health is critical the region's long term environmental and economic sustainability. Through improving land management practices which benefit environmental and economic outcomes, the region will be better placed to adapt to a changing climate and periods of drought.

FOCUS AREA:

## Building land managers capacity in adaptive agriculture and best practice land management

PROGRAMS

Regional Agriculture  
Landcare Facilitator

Field days, events and  
workshops delivered  
throughout the region

FOCUS AREA:

## Support innovation and adoption of practices for resilience and adaptation

PROGRAMS

Provision of weather stations  
and soil moisture sensors

FOCUS AREA:

## Protect and improve the condition of the soil, groundcover and vegetation

PROGRAMS

Managing impact  
causing native  
species

Field days and  
workshops on soil  
health, grazing  
pressure and pasture  
management

PROJECTS

Carbon and  
Biodiversity Project

Soil Extension Officers

Regenerating Mid  
North Catchments

Statewide Kangaroo  
Management

Soil Management  
Practices

Adoption along  
Goyder's Line\*

Stronger Country\*

# Pest Plant and Animal Control



**Targeted. Coordinated. Collaborative.**

Uncontrolled pest plants and animals can have a significant impact on agricultural productivity, biodiversity and human health. The *Landscape South Australia Act 2019* requires action be taken to control pest animals and plants, tasking landowners with the responsibility to manage declared pests on their properties. The Board provides support and assistance to landowners to control existing pest species, and to prevent or reduce the likelihood of new pest threats.

FOCUS AREA:

## Deliver programs that control priority weeds and feral animals to reduce their effects on agriculture and biodiversity

### PEST ANIMAL PROGRAMS

Fox, rabbit and wild dog bait distribution

Goat Management Steering Committee

Provision of goat yards, cat traps and pest animal management advice

### PEST PLANT PROGRAMS

Collaborative roadside weed control with councils

District weed plants and prioritisation of WONS and declared weeds

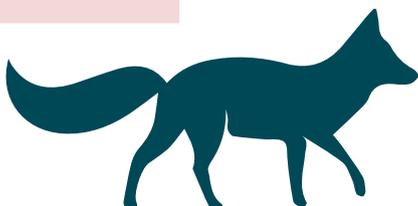
Provision of biological controls

FOCUS AREA:

## Develop land manager networks and facilitate collaboration for pest control and management

### PROGRAMS

District engagement programs and fox baiting property clusters



### PROJECTS

Marna Banggara

Goat Management Steering Committee

Road and Rail Corridor Projects

Deer Eradication Project\*

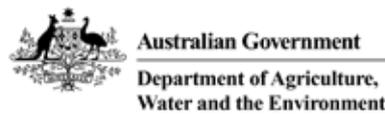
Buffel grass control along rail corridors\*

# Our partners

The Board takes this opportunity to recognise and thank the project partners, stakeholders, community groups and individuals who work with and alongside the Board in delivering against the Boards priorities.

Without the continued support of these organisations and individuals, the Board would have limited ability to deliver the objectives of this Plan, the Regional Landscape Plan and the State

Landscape Strategy. The Board seeks to continue building on existing relationships and seeking new opportunities to partner with other organisations to make a collective impact in our region.



## LOCAL GOVERNMENT PARTNERS

Adelaide Plains Council  
 Barunga West Council  
 Clare & Gilbert Valleys Council  
 Copper Coast Council  
 District Council of Mount Remarkble

District Council of Orroroo Carrieton  
 Light Regional Council  
 Northern Areas Council  
 District Council of Peterborough  
 Port Pirie Regional Council

Regional Council of Goyder  
 The Barossa Council  
 Town of Gawler  
 Wakefield Regional Council  
 Yorke Peninsula Council

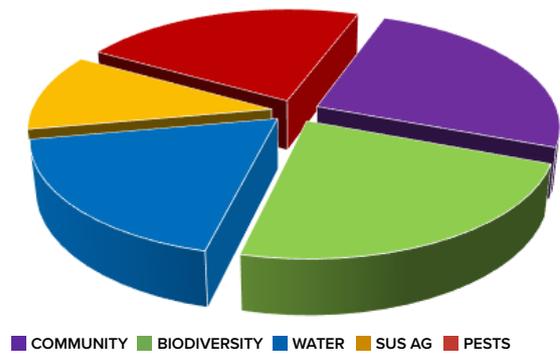


# Investment by priority

This Business Plan sets out the anticipated expenditure and revenue for the Financial Year. The Board’s investment will be delivered through a range of programs and projects including direct investment, contracts for works or services, and grants.

The table provides the investment by priority across all programs and projects planned for the 2023/2024 year, and includes expenditure related to administrative support, fleet, accommodation and other operating costs.

Total corporate costs inclusive of Business Services team salaries and wages, corporate fees, office accommodation, fleet costs and overheads is \$1.094m.



PRIORITY		TOTAL
	Communities	2.341m <sup>1</sup>
	Biodiversity	2.138m
	Water management	1.708m <sup>2</sup>
	Sustainable agriculture	1.027m
	Pest plants and animals	2.074m
<b>Total</b>		<b>9.289m<sup>3</sup></b>

<sup>1</sup> Includes \$250,000 of community grants and sponsorships which may align to another priority once awarded.

<sup>2</sup> Water Planning Management contributions of \$480,000 approximately are included in the Water Management priority.

<sup>3</sup> Includes levy funds, external funds and carryovers from previous years.



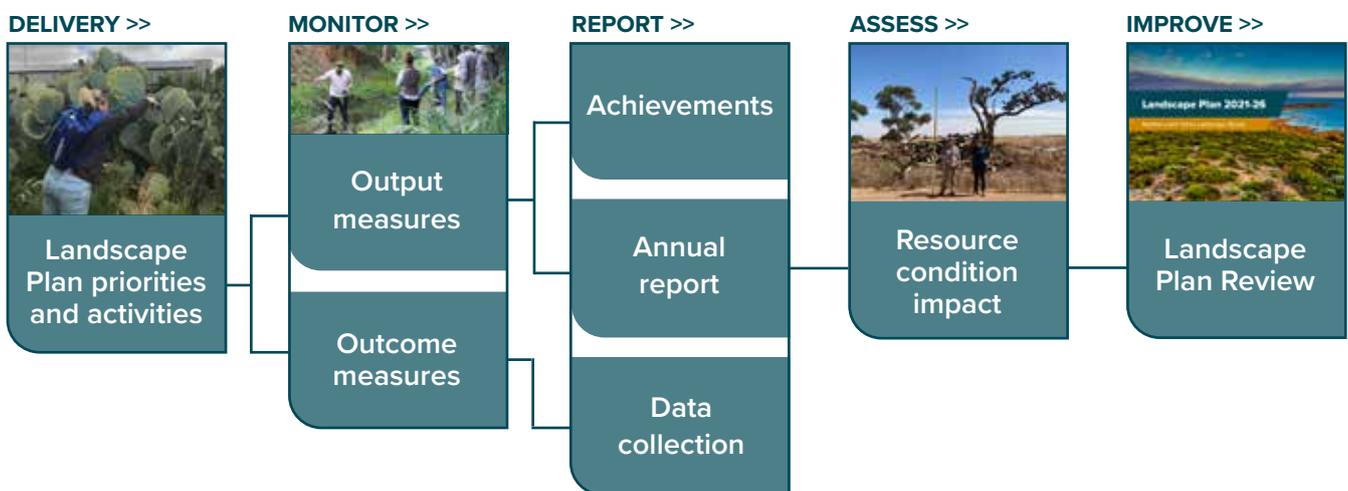
# Measuring progress

The programs and projects outlined in this plan contribute to the objectives of the Northern and Yorke Landscape Plan 2021-2026. It is important for the Board to ensure that the programs and projects delivered are effective and having the desired impact on our region.

To this end, the Board will be implementing a MERI (Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting and Improvement) Plan, which is summarised in the diagram below. The MERI framework will be completed by 2023-2024.

This MERI framework will include a number of measurable and reportable outcomes, which align with the priorities and focus areas of the Landscape Plan. As part of measuring and reporting our progress, the Board will;

- Produce an annual Achievements Report and a statutory Annual Report showing how the levy funds have been spent in the financial year and what has been achieved;
- Program level monitoring to evaluate and understand the positive impacts of the board’s work and progress being made; and
- An evaluation at the end of the Landscape Plan 2021-2026 period to understand how the plan’s implementation has influenced the condition of the region’s landscapes.



# Project highlights

The Northern and Yorke Landscape Board partners with community organisations, government entities, councils and industry to deliver major landscape-scale projects. Funding for major projects is often sourced through competitive grant or funding opportunities offered by the State or Federal Governments. The Board continues to seek opportunities for partnerships with corporate or philanthropic organisations who wish to partner on sustainable landscape-scale projects. The following projects will commence or continue to be delivered during the 2023-2024 year.



## MARNA BANGGARA



### Footprint:

Southern Yorke Peninsula

### Timeframe: 2023-2028

**Aim:** To reinvigorate natural ecological processes through a reduction in pest plants and animals and re-introduction of locally-extinct animals to restore bushland health.

**Partners:** Australian Government, Department for Environment and Water, Foundation for National Parks & Wildlife, WWF-Australia, Narungga Nation Aboriginal Corporation

**Priorities:** Communities, Biodiversity, Pest Plant and Animals

## DJULDA-WAWA BADJA



### Footprint:

Yorke Peninsula

### Timeframe: 2022-2024

**Aim:** Work with local communities and councils to help restore and protect sensitive coastal ecosystems from impacts of pest plants and animals, visitors and to recover from fire events.

**Partners:** Yorke Peninsula Council, Barunga West Council, AGL, Legatus

**Priorities:** Communities, Biodiversity, Pest Plant and Animals

## BAROSSA WATER ALLOCATION PLAN



**Footprint:**

Barossa Valley PWRA

**Timeframe:** 2023-2024

**Aim:** Amend the Barossa Water Allocation Plan, a legal document that sets rules for managing native water.

**Partners:** DEW and community

**Priorities:** Communities, Water

## REGENERATING CATCHMENTS



**Footprint:**

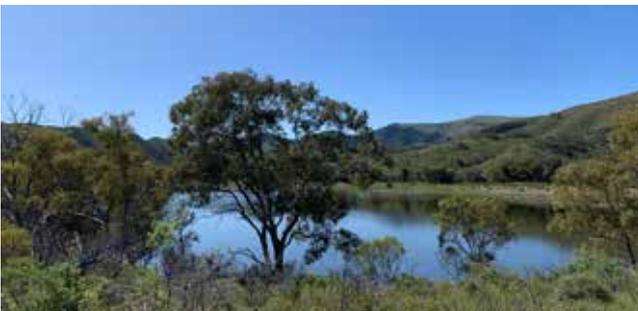
Mid North

**Timeframe:** 2023

**Aim:** Improve the farming landscape's condition and productivity and increase the connectivity of remnant vegetation in the local river system.

**Priorities:** Communities, Biodiversity, Pest Plant and Animals

## BAROOTA WATER ALLOCATION PLAN



**Footprint:**

Baroota PWRA

**Timeframe:** 2023-2024

**Aim:** Amend the Baroota Water Allocation Plan, a legal document that sets rules for managing native water.

**Partners:** DEW and licencees

**Priorities:** Communities, Water

## SOIL EXTENSION



**Footprint:**

Region-wide

**Timeframe:** 2022-2025

**Aim:** Improve knowledge of soil structures, soil health and sustainability

**Partners:** Other Landscape SA boards

**Priorities:** Sustainable agriculture, Biodiversity



# Funding

The Board receives funding through the collection of levies (landscape levy and water levies) and through agreements with the Federal Government or other partners. The table below provides the estimated funding (income) for the 2023-2024 financial year.

The Northern and Yorke Landscape Board will seek funding opportunities during the 2023-2024 year to supplement the programs and projects outlined in this plan, including through the Australian Government’s National Landcare Program.

FUNDING SOURCE	2023-24 (\$)
<b>Levies and water levies<sup>1</sup></b>	
Regional Landscape Levy	6,197,973
Water Levy	416,552
<b>External funding</b>	
Landscape Priorities Fund	242,475
<b>Other funding</b>	
Sale of goods and services	40,000
Interest	170,000
External funding approved carry-over	1,348,968
Levy funding approved carry-over	663,103
<b>TOTAL FUNDING</b>	<b>9,505,071</b>

<sup>1</sup> Landscape levy represents total figure to be collected by constituent councils. Water levy is an approximate figure based on water licence holders in the Northern and Yorke region.



## Landscape levy

The regional landscape levy, outlined in the *Landscape South Australia Act 2019*, is the primary source of income for the Northern and Yorke Landscape Board.

The total levy income for the 2023-2024 year is equal to the 2022-2023 year income plus a CPI adjustment of 8.4% (September 2022 quarter). The council contributions are based on the % of regional capital value within each council.

The regional landscape levy provides the funds to enable the Board to undertake its legislatively required functions, including administration of the requirements of the Act and to invest in programs and projects to address the priority areas outlined in the Regional Landscape Plan.

The table below provides the landscape levy to be collected by each constituent council and the collection fees that will be paid by the Board.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA	23-24 LANDSCAPE LEVY	COLLECTION FEE
Adelaide Plains	319,213	4,478.76
Barossa	821,926	6,665.00
Barunga West	252,447	3,623.36
Clare & Gilbert Valleys	449,773	4,954.76
Copper Coast	568,319	6,396.76
Gawler	619,649	6,397.04
Goyder	234,302	4,267.08
Light	546,729	5,259.12
Mount Remarkable	143,379	3,874.80
Northern Areas	272,312	4,180.84
Orroroo Carrieton	42,687	3,303.88
Peterborough	29,931	3,376.40
Port Pirie	352,124	6,008.40
Wakefield	394,553	4,535.60
Yorke Peninsula	1,150,628	7,139.04
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>6,197,973</b>	<b>74,460.84</b>



## Levy equalisation

Historically the rates and bases used to raise Natural Resources Management levies varied considerably between NRM Boards.

With the establishment of the Landscape Boards in 2020 and realignment of the regional boundaries, the Northern and Yorke landscape region, inclusive of the entirety of the Gawler, Barossa, Adelaide Plains, Light and Goyder Councils, has three different land levy rates charged to ratepayers within the region.

The Levy Transitional Scheme (Schedule 5 Clause 95(3)-(6) of the *Landscape South Australia Act 2019*) requires that levy rates within landscape management regions be equalised from the 2023-2024 financial year.

For the 2023-2024 financial year, the Northern & Yorke Landscape Board will equalise the regional landscape levy to a common rate within the region in a manner that maintains 2022-2023 levy income plus CPI. The common rate provides the most equitable apportionment of the landscape levy to ratepayers.

Maintaining the 2022-2023 levy income plus CPI will enable the board to continue to deliver important landscape management services and priorities, as informed by the communities and set out in the Northern and Yorke Landscape Plan 2021-2026.

Communication materials will be prepared to inform the affected ratepayers about the equalisation. This will include information on our website, key messages and FAQs for levy payers. We are committed to engaging with concerned levy payers, and councils will be encouraged to refer any feedback and questions regarding the landscape levy to the board.

## Council collection fees

The councils within the Northern and Yorke landscape region provide the valuable service of collecting the landscape levy from ratepayers via council rate notices. They apply a rate per dollar of capital value and forward the revenue to the Landscape Board quarterly. Councils are paid for this service. In the 2023-2024 financial year, they will receive \$2,836 plus 28 cents per assessment (rateable property), totalling approximately \$74,460 across the 15 council areas in the region.



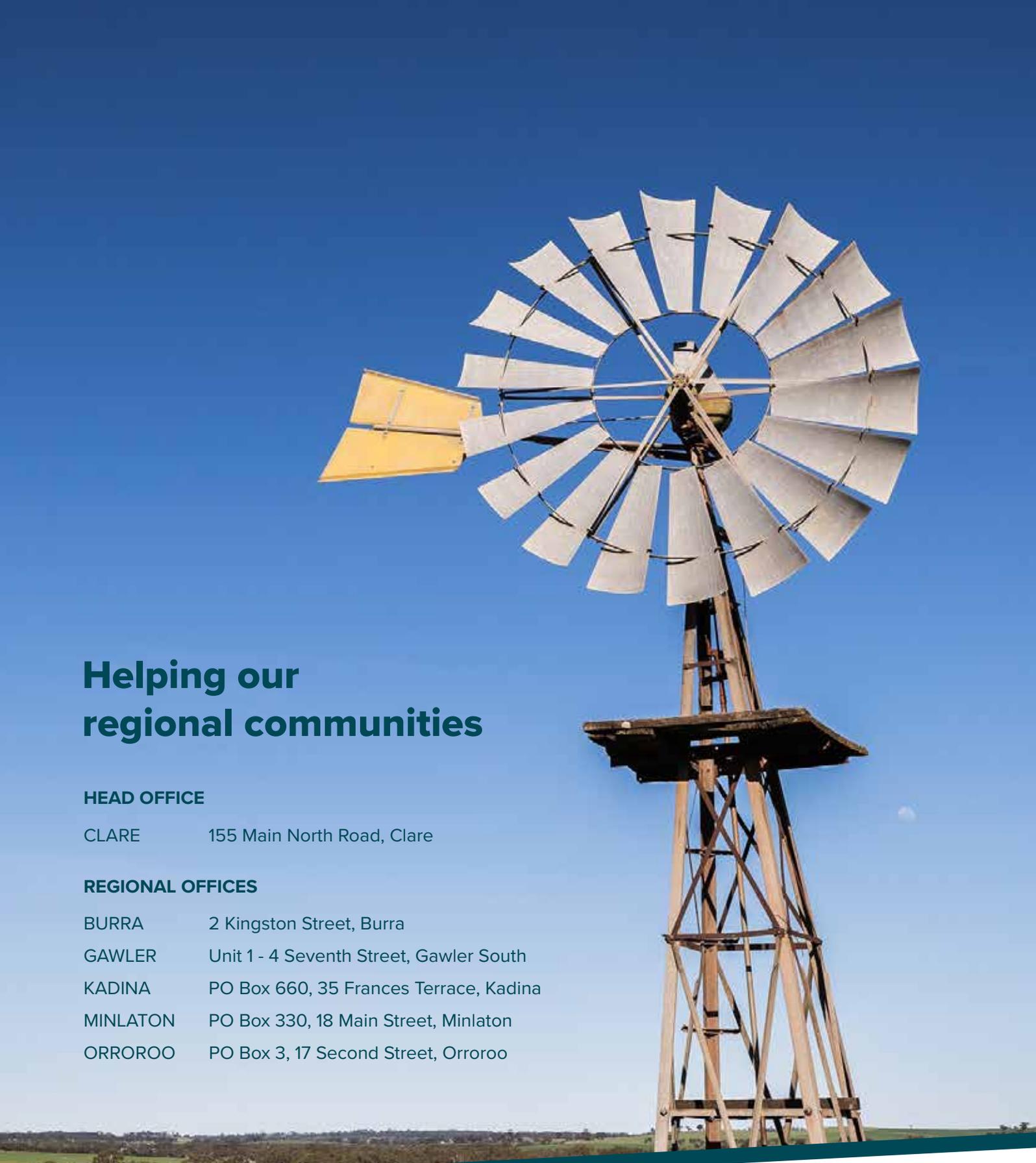
# Water levies

The Northern and Yorke Landscape Board region contains five prescribed water resource areas (PWRAs).

These include the Clare Valley and Barossa Valley and sections of the Marne Saunders, Northern Adelaide Plains and the Western Mount Lofty PWRAs.

Water levies are paid by all water licence holders in the PWRAs. The levy is collected by the Department for Environment and Water and forwarded to the Northern and Yorke Landscape Board. The table below provides the rates at which levies will be charged in the 2023-2024 financial year, and include a Consumer Price Index (CPI) increase on the 2022-2023 levy rates.

PWRA	RATES AND BASIS OF LEVY 22-23	RATES AND BASIS OF LEVY 23-24	PROPORTION OF PWRAs ALLOCATED	EXPECTED AMOUNT 23-24
Barossa Valley	.650 c/kl of water allocated	7.05 ML of water allocated	100%	\$416,552
Clare Valley	\$105.49 as a fixed amount per water license, and 3.764c/kl of water allocated	\$114.35 as a fixed amount per water license, and 4.080 c/kl of water allocated	100%	
Marne Saunders	.699 c/kl of water allocated or a levy of \$200, whichever greater	.7577 c/kl of water allocated or a levy of \$200, whichever greater	40%	
Western Mount Lofty Ranges	.650 c/kl of water allocated	7.05 ML of water allocated	3%	
Eastern Mount Lofty Ranges	.650 c/kl of water allocated	7.05 ML of water allocated	>1%	
Central Adelaide	6.50 ML New levy declared	7.05 ML of water allocated	>1%	



# Helping our regional communities

## HEAD OFFICE

CLARE 155 Main North Road, Clare

## REGIONAL OFFICES

BURRA 2 Kingston Street, Burra

GAWLER Unit 1 - 4 Seventh Street, Gawler South

KADINA PO Box 660, 35 Frances Terrace, Kadina

MINLATON PO Box 330, 18 Main Street, Minlaton

ORROROO PO Box 3, 17 Second Street, Orroroo